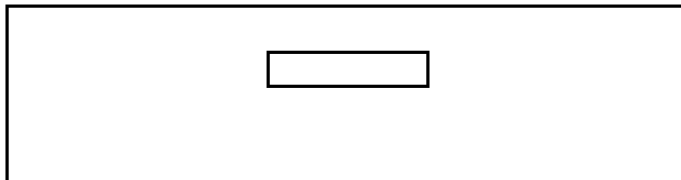


25X1



13 FEB 1967

MC

The Honorable Alexander Flax
Assistant Secretary of the Air Force
for Research and Development
The Pentagon
Washington, D. C.

Dear Al:

The recent letters from Dr. Hornig to you and to Dr. Seamans have pointed up the need for formulating procedures to assure the protection of our classified reconnaissance program during any public discussions NASA may have on the use of a [redacted] camera in earth orbit. I believe it most important that any such discussions be guided by a full understanding of pertinent security aspects and that photography obtained by NASA's use of a [redacted] camera will continue to be protected by the TALENT-KEYHOLE system. I would welcome, therefore, an opportunity to review the procedures which you formulate to safeguard the classified reconnaissance program in this context.

25X1A

25X1A

Sincerely,

Rufus Taylor
Vice Admiral, U. S. Navy
Acting Director

cc: Dr. Hornig
Dr. Seamans

25X1A

NRO, NSC and NASA
review(s) completed.

25X1A

HANDLE VIA [redacted] TALENT
KEYHOLE CHANNELS JOINTLY

Copy 8

SECRET

HANDLE VIA ^{25X1A} [] TALENT
KEYHOLE CONTROLS JOINTLY

25X1A
[]

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O/DCI: []:agh

Distribution:

Copy 1 - Secretary Flax

2 - Dr. Hornig

3 - Dr. Seamans

4 - Executive Registry

5 - D/DCI/NIPE w/atts []

6 - A/DDS&T w/atts []

7 - CGS/DDI w/atts []

8 - C/COMOR w/atts []

9 - []

10 & 11 - DDS&T Registry w/o atts

cy 1, Ser "C"
cy 2, Ser "C"
3, Ser "C"
cy 4, Ser "C"

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HANDLE VIA [] TALENT
KEYHOLE CHANNELS JOINTLY

SECRET

SECRET

25X1A

[REDACTED] **CONTROL SYSTEMS JOINT**

10 February 1967

25X1A

FOR [REDACTED]

25X1A

Mr. Reber has asked me to get with [REDACTED] to discuss the potential problems we may face as a result of NASA Congressional testimony regarding the Apollo Applications Program.

25X1A

[REDACTED] concern culminated in the attached two letters. We are moving out at once, with [REDACTED] assistance, to define public information and perhaps "cover" procedures, if necessary. Regarding the latter, my personal reaction is that there is no reason for this machine to transport "live" film.

25X1A

You will see our paper as soon as it is completed and prior to its release to Dr. Hornig.

25X1A

Best regards,

[REDACTED] **CONTROL SYSTEMS JOINT**

[REDACTED]

25X1A

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

HANDLE VIA
TALENT-KEYHOLE-COMINT
CONTROL SYSTEMS

February 9, 1967

25X1A

Dear Bob:

As I understand it, NASA's most recent program plans call for flying the Lunar Survey and Mapping Cameras in earth orbit in 1968 as part of the Apollo Applications Program. I am aware that you have an agreement with the NRO that photographs of the earth taken during these flights by the [] camera will remain in the Talent-Keyhole system. However, it will soon be time for NASA to describe its 1968 plans to Congress and the public. I am concerned that if it is made public now that these camera flights will be a part of the 1968 program, there will be great public pressure to release the photographs when the flights are actually made. If so, in spite of your agreement and the good intentions of all concerned, it may not be possible to maintain the classification of the photographs or possibly even the camera.

In view of this, it would seem desirable that any public discussion of this part of the NASA program should be carefully designed to conform to a prearranged set of procedures which describe in some detail how we will face the contingencies that can be expected. Some of the questions that come to mind include, for example, whether we would publicly state that the photographs are classified or release degraded pictures which would hide camera capabilities, and how we would meet inquiries concerning the specifications of the camera.

I have asked Dr. Flax to let me know how we stand with regard to the formulation of procedures which would conform to presently established classification policy. I assume that you are working closely with him on this and I hope that you will be able to avoid any public statements in this regard until we have a set of procedures that has received concurrence by an appropriate forum.

Sincerely,

Donald F. Hornig
Special Assistant to the President
for Science and Technology

Dr. Robert C. Seamans, Jr.
Deputy Administrator
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Washington, D. C.

Copy 4 - Series 'C'
Series # [] Copy # []

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

HANDLED VIA
TALENT-KEYHOLE SYSTEM
CONFIDENTIAL
ILLEGIB

February 9, 1967

Dear Al:

As I understand it, NASA's most recent program plans call for flying the Lunar Survey and Mapping Cameras in earth orbit in 1968 as part of the Apollo Applications Program. I am aware that you have an agreement with NASA that photographs of the earth taken during these flights by the [] camera will remain in the Talent-Keyhole system. However, it will soon be time for NASA to describe its 1968 plans to Congress and the public. I am concerned that if it is made public now that these camera flights will be a part of the 1968 program, there will be great public pressure to release the photographs when the flights are actually made. If so, in spite of your agreement with NASA and the good intentions of all concerned, it may not be possible to maintain the classification of the photographs or possibly even the camera.

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Sincerely,



Donald F. Hornig
Special Assistant to the President
for Science and Technology

Dr. Alexander H. Flax
Assistant Secretary of the
Air Force for Research and Development
The Pentagon
Washington, D. C.

SECRET

This document consists of 1 pages
1 of 2 (GPO's, Series 1)

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Series B, Copy # 1